

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Aritome* (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,101); rejected claim 9 as being unpatentable over *Aritome*; and allowed claims 5, 15, and 22.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 5, 15, and 22. By this Amendment, applicant has canceled claims 4, 9, 14, and 21 without prejudice and disclaimer. Applicant has amended claims 7, 10, 11, and 18 to depend from allowable claim 5, and has amended claims 16 and 19 to depend from allowable claim 14.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Nevertheless, solely to advance prosecution, Applicant has canceled these claims, rendering their rejection moot. Claims 9 and 21 are also canceled, rendering their rejection moot.

Claims 7, 10, 11, 16, 18, and 19 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 5 or 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, which establish the allowability of all pending claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

¹ The Office Action may contain statements characterizing the related art, case law, and claims. Regardless of whether any such statements are specifically identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statements in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time, not otherwise requested, which are required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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